



St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times *November 2021*



The Pastor's Perspective.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, I pray you are well.

When we come to November, we automatically think of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving becomes a time of food, family, and perhaps football for many. But I do believe we have strayed away from the true meaning of the holiday. Thanksgiving should simply be a time to give thanks! And to reflect on things for which we are thankful.

Are you thankful no matter what? Perhaps you have lost your job recently, as the economy has continued to struggle. Or you may have lost your health or a loved one. Such circumstances can be tremendously difficult. But even so, we all have much to be thankful for. Once again, we are nearing that time of year in which we express our Thanksgiving to God. He is truly our provider and source of blessings. Perhaps you've noticed, as I have, that as soon as October is over and November arrives, we begin to see Christmas decorations immediately go up! While I'm thrilled when Christmas comes, I'm always just a bit sentimental about the importance of Thanksgiving.

This Thanksgiving, take the time to pray. Pray with a grateful heart. Pray to offer praise to God for life and loved ones. Pray for God to lead you in the path of God's choosing. God provides us with true blessings in abundance. We have joy and laughter; we have courage in the face of fear, hope where there is doubt, comfort when we have tears and sadness. God is with us in all things. Pray for our communities as we seek to strengthen and grow in Christ. Pray for the staff and leaders who work to make ministry meaningful. Pray for all people who serve and provide the financial resources for ministry to take place. Pray for our church as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world. Give thanks to the Lord always with a grateful heart. I am thankful for you and St Luke. I am grateful for all that God is doing among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future.

"Oh, God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry; when I have work, help me to remember the jobless; when I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless; When I am without pain, help me remember those who suffer, and help me destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jacqueline Belzer

Notes From the Music Director



Help us welcome our new pastor! We're having a card shower to welcome Rev. Bristol to our congregation and invite everyone to contribute! We're looking for cards to welcome her as our pastor to St. Luke. And keep it simple - let her know a little about you, your connection to St. Luke or just let her know you're keeping her and St. Luke in your prayers. We will collect all the cards at St. Luke and Rebecca will deliver them to Rev. Bristol. Please drop them off or mail them by **Monday, Dec. 6th.**

-Becca Ruiz

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Once again, we will be collecting shoebox presents for Operation Christmas Child. This is a time to pack a shoebox with presents for a boy or a girl somewhere around the world who normally wouldn't receive a Christmas present. It is something we ALL can do...it's a fun and feel-good way to do your part for a worthy cause. Please pack your shoebox and bring it to church from Oct. 17 to Nov. 14. On Nov. 14, the boxes will be blessed by Pr. Jacqueline. You can pick up a pre-printed box at St. Luke or use your own. Please remember to include a \$9.00 check made out to Samaritan's Purse with Operation Christmas Child in the memo line. For ideas of what to pack, go to www.samaritanaspurse.org and click on the Shoebox link.



Our next SL/SM Book Club will be Sunday, Dec. 12, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss *The Book of Longings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. "An extraordinary story set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice and her destiny, from the celebrated number one New York Times bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees*." All are welcome...join us!



Dec The Halls!

All are invited on Sunday, Nov. 28 after worship to decorate our church home for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Donations of Poinsettias to adorn our altar are greatly appreciated. Join us for this cherished, time-honored St. Luke tradition...it is sure to put you in a festive mood!

November Scripture Readers

- 7 Christine Olson
- 14 Barb Jensen
- 21 Kay Reich
- 28 Wendy Bjorklund



LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our October volunteers: Katy Eggert, Julia Gaarder, Joyce Bluel, Larry Litzkow and David Tews.

BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for November: Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, and Julie Ellingson.



November Birthdays

- 8 Gary Nelson
- 10 Hugo Ruiz
- 14 Joshua Vigdal
- 17 Dwight Paulson
Joan Wilson
- 18 Bruce Magnuson
- 23 Christine Salaba
- 25 Ben Vigdal
- 26 Janell Walter
- 30 Robert Herrmann



November Anniversaries

- 9 Tracy and Kevin Arndt: 1991
- 12 Larry and Junella Litzkow: 1960
- 26 Jack and Joan Holtz: 1960

Now Thank We All Our God!

Join us on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 24 at 7pm, for a time of worship and reflection, in person or via Zoom. The Zoom invites will be emailed to you a few days before Thanksgiving. Hope to see you there!



St. Luke Mitten and Hat Tree During the Advent season there will be a Christmas tree placed in the sanctuary where we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves. We will collect items from November 28 to December 26. At the end of this drive, we will donate all the hats, mittens and scarves to Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children. Thank you for participating in this worthy cause!



All Saints Day

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 7, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away this year. Please let secretary Jo Klein know, in written form or by email, (jojoklein@gmail.com) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.

Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards

In the tradition of Thanksgiving benevolence at St. Luke, this year we will be collecting donations for Thanksgiving Food Gift Cards, which will be distributed to members of our community. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 21. Please indicate "Thanksgiving Gift Cards" on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

St. Luke Financial Report
through September, 2021

Receipts	\$78,582
Expenses	\$91,791
	(\$13,251)



congregational meeting



Be sure to attend our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 7 after the service. Your participation is valued and needed.



Council Ballot: On Sunday, Nov. 7, we will hold our Annual Meeting at which we will elect a new council for 2022. We have 3 officer positions open: President, Vice President, and Secretary. You must have served on council at some time in the past to be considered for an officer position. They are each 1-year terms (and you can run once again for a second year). There is also a Council Member at Large opening. It is a two-year term. No experience necessary. Please consider serving your congregation with some time and your talents!

FALL BACK!

Don't forget to set your clocks
one hour back on
Saturday night, November 6.



2022 Stewardship Drive

It is time again for our stewardship drive. Stewardship letter and pledge cards have been sent to all members. Please prayerfully consider what you can pledge to St. Luke in the coming year. Fill out your card and mail to church in care of Joyce Bluel, Treasurer, by Saturday, November 6th. You may also bring your pledge card to church and place in the offering plate. Thank you!



President's Corner



Important Dates: Saturday, Nov. 6 – Stewardship deadline for your pledge card to be at church. While we have lost a member or two, our monthly expenses continue, and we are not meeting our monthly expenses. Our repaved parking lot was expensive, but long overdue to be safe for our members and guests. Our Vanguard fund is lessening. We need to meet our monthly expenses with offerings in the very near future. See Joyce Bluel's article in this newsletter.

Sunday, Nov. 7, 10:30am – Annual Meeting. We need members to step forward and be on the Church Council ballot for 2022. Our Constitution was changed in 2020 (per ELCA model) to limit officers to serving one-year terms and no more than two consecutive years in the same office. The member at large position is a two-year term. To be an officer, you must have at least one year of previous experience on the Council. It is an exciting time to be on the Council. You will be welcoming Rev. Bristol Reading and be involved in the discussions of how to keep St. Luke strong and welcoming to new members. I will not be on council next year, but I will be scheduling the Zoom chats with Rev. Reading and our member families. Might be the only way we can see that new baby Magnolia!

Sat., Oct. 30, 11am-noon – I will be at the church to distribute communion kits. There are more than 2 communion services in November and in December because of the holidays. If you are a regular Zoom attendee, let me know if you are unable to stop at church and we will find a way to deliver the kits to your home.

I am smiling as I type this article and my President's Annual Report. While we are still wearing masks at church, we are IN church on Sundays. We will have coffee hours again. We will decorate the church for the holidays after the service on November 28. Pr. Jacqueline is willing to stay with us a little longer than she planned. She has been such a gift to us and given us so much more than a half-time pastor usually offers. Rev. Reading (she will be Pr. Reading once she is ordained in December) will join us and begin a new chapter for St. Luke. This is her "first call"...just as Pr. Hock joined St. Luke as his "first call." I doubt Rev. Reading will give us 38 years, but one can hope and pray! Be happy and enthusiastic that St. Luke is still strong, still alive and serving our members and neighborhood friends. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation...this church family, for that is what you are to me. Stay safe and be well,

Sue McNeill